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No. 7

COINS OF KING SUMAHĀGRĀMAKA FROM KONDAPUR EXCAVATIONS

By

Mahamahopadhyaya V. V. Mirashi, M.A.
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(*b*) Coins of King Sumahgārāmaka (Photographic reproductions)

INTRODUCTION

The ruins of an Andhra town (cir. 300 B.C. to cir. 300 A.D.), discovered and excavated by me about a decade ago at Kondapur (Lat. 17°—1′, Long. 78°—1′), a village in Kalabgur taluq of Medak district, are continuously yielding illuminating objects which shed considerable light on the life, culture and history of the period. Some of the discoveries are startling. Among them some unique lead coins of king Sumahāgrāmaka are of exciting interest. They add a new name to the list of kings who ruled the Deccan or a part of it. At my request Mahamahopadhyaya Prof. V. V. Mirashi, has prepared a detailed and scholarly note on the coins, and I am glad to publish it in this brochure which is styled as Numismatic Series No. 7, of Hyderabad Museum. Although at present it is not possible to determine the dynasty represented by Sumahāgrāmaka, yet it is hoped that future discoveries and researches may provide the much desired information.

'The Antiquities and Architectural Remains at Kondapur' have been described by me during the course of a lecture delivered in a Special Meeting convened by the Hyderabad Archæological and Historical Society at Kondapur on the 10th August 1941, which has been published in the Proceedings of the Special Meeting of the Society. A monograph has been brought out by me on 'the Inscribed and Riveted Pottery from Kondapur.' One of the three known coins of king Sādavāhana, the founder of the Sātavāhana dynasty, has been discovered at Kondapur and published in Numismatic Series No. 2 and 3, of the Hyderabad Museum. Coins of the poorly represented Mahisha dynasty discovered at Kondapur have been published in Numismatic Series No. 4, of the Hyderabad Museum. This Series adds a name to the list of the Deccan kings. Kondapur is an inexhaustible mine, as is apparent from the fact that some more interesting coins of Mahisha dynasty have been lately discovered, representing new varieties and offering valuable information. They are being examined and studied by Mahamahopadhyaya V. V. Mirashi, and are expected to be published in Numismatic Series No. 8, of the Hyderabad Museum.

24-10-1950. *Khwaja Muhammad Ahmad.*

COINS OF KING SUMHĀGRĀMAKA

By Mahamahopadhyaya Prof. V. V. Mirashi, M.A., Nagpur

THE coins published here for the first time were found in the excavations at Koṇḍāpur in the Medak District of the Hyderabad State, where extensive ruins of the Sātavāhana age have been unearthed. Their photographs and ink impressions were supplied to me by Mr. Khwaja Muhammad Ahmad, Director of Archæology, Hyderabad State, for decipherment and publication. He also supplied me with information about their size and weight. I publish them here as desired by him.

Of the six coins whose photographs and ink impressions were supplied to me I have selected four, which had a fairly legible legend, for publication. The remaining two did not show more than one or two letters each and were not therefore worth publishing. All the coins are of lead and roundish in shape. They have a large-size *svastika* on the obverse, with the legend running round it. Between the *svastika* and the legend there is a symbol resembling the Brāhmī *akshara ha* whose significance is not evident.[1] As the blank was smaller than the die, only a part of the legend has come out on each coin. The reverse of some coins shows one or two knobs of what was apparently an Ujjain symbol. The reverse of other coins has become completely blank by wear and tear. The sizes, weights and legends of the coins are given below :

Coin No.	size (diam.)	weight in grs.	legend
No. 1	1″	162	*Samahagāma[kasa]*
No. 2	1.05″	214	*Mahagāmakasa ma[ha]*
No. 3	1″	168	*[Sa] mahagāma*
No. 4	1.05″	142	*Samaha.*

1. Similar single letters appear also on the gold coins with the legend *Mahendrāditya* published in *J.N.S.I.*, Vol. X, pp. 137 f. I have suggested elsewhere a possible explanation of the *aksharas sa* and *da* on these coins, *J.N.S.I.*, Vol. XI, pp. 108 f. No such explanation is however possible in this case.

The legend is in Prakrit and in Brāhmī characters of the second or third century A. C. The vertical of *h* is shortened and the letter appears broad-based as in Kushāṇa inscriptions ; *m* appears with a flat base ; *g* is round ; the vertical of *k* does not show a curve at the lower end. In the absence of coins giving other portions of the legend it is not possible to restore it completely. The legend, so far as it appears on these coins is as follows—*Samahagāmakasa maha-*. In the absence of the initial part of the legend, it is not possible to say whether the first *akshara sa* is the genitive affix of the preceding word or, standing for *sū*, forms an integral part of the royal name. After *maha*, lower portions of three or four *aksharas* appear on Coin No. 2, but they cannot be read with confidence. The extant legend means ' (This coins is) of Sumahāgrāmaka Maha-. '

To what dynasty *Sumahāgrāmaka* (if that is his correct name) belonged is not known. The Ujjain symbol on the reverse of these coins connects him with the Sātavāhanas, but his name is not included in the list of the so-called Andhra kings, given by the Purāṇas. The *svastika* type was used by the kings of the Mahisha dynasty also and though their coins of this type generally have the thunderbolt and arrow on the reverse, some coins issued by the progenitor of the family, the Śaka king Māna, have the Ujjani symbol on the reverse.[2] It is therefore not unlikely that this king belonged to the Mahisha dynasty. The *aksharas maha* at the end of the legend on Coin No. 2 lend colour to this view ; for they may be part of the dynastic name *Mahasa* which appears on some coins of the Śaka kings Māna and Yaśa[3]. The *akshara* following *ha* on that coin has, however, left what appears to be the lower part of a straight vertical stroke such as is noticed in the case of *ka* or *ra*. If the *akshara* had been *sa*, its lower part would have been slightly curved. See the shape of that *akshara* in *gāmakasa*. The word following *Samahāgāmakasa* is therefore not likely to be *Mahasa*.

Until more coins with well-preserved legends are discovered it is not possible to say to which dynasty the king Sumahāgrāmaka belonged.

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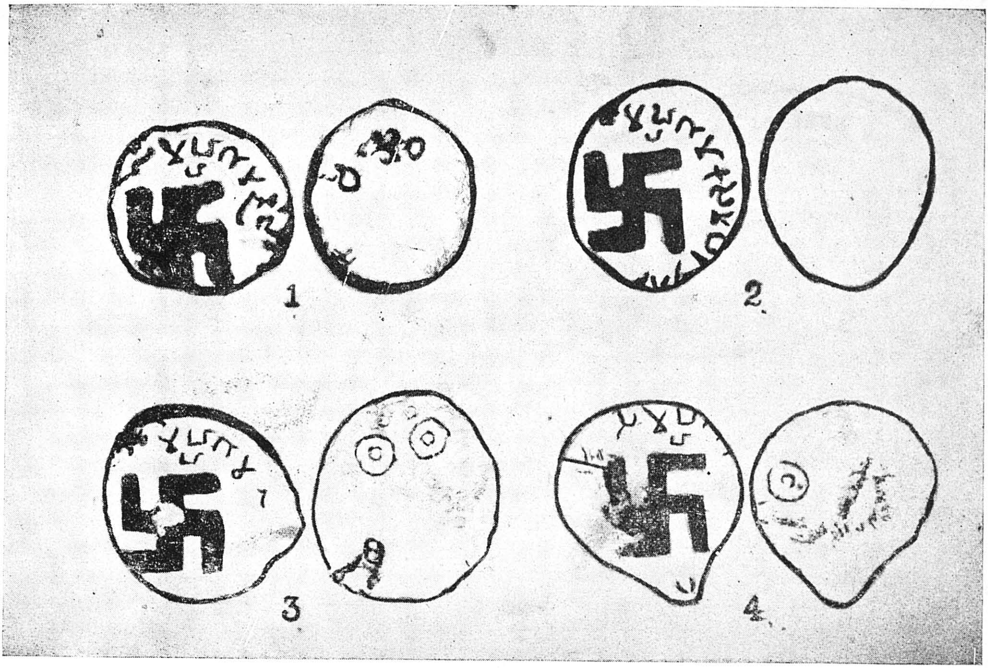
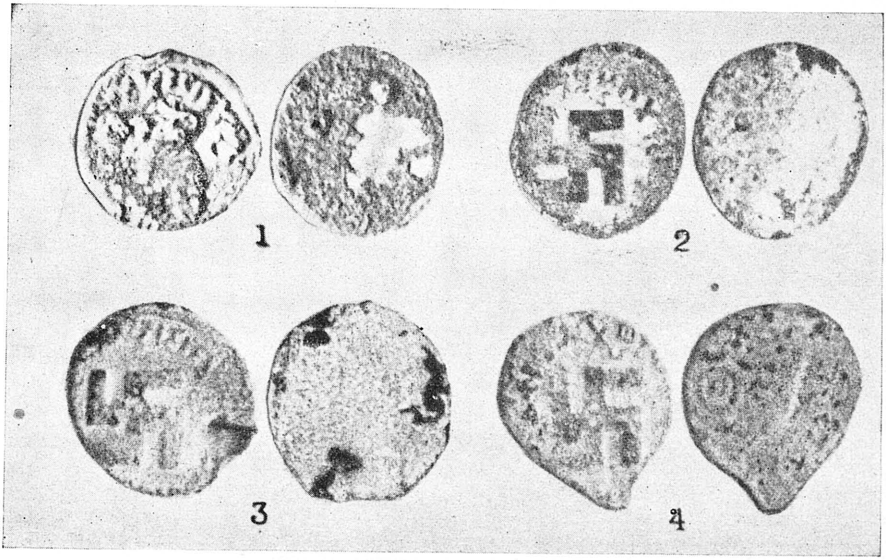
2. See Numismatic Series, No. 3, p. 2, pl. II.
3. *Ibid.* No. 3, pp. 1 f.



(*a*) Coins of King Sumahāgrāmaka (inked rubbings).



(*b*) Coins of King Sumahāgrāmaka (photographic reproductions).

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